

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING CHRISTINE  
HAAS AS "AMERICA'S TOP  
YOUNG SCIENTIST"

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 8, 2002*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Christine Haas of Clovis, California for being named "America's top Young Scientist" in the 2002 Discovery Channel's Young Scientist Challenge. Christine won the nationwide middle school science competition for her botany and zoology project.

On August 17, 1998, Christine Haas was discovered at Reyburn Intermediate School with her science project by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laboratory's Near-Earth Asteroid Research (LINEAR) program. Christine, now a Clovis East High School student, received the honor of having a minor planet named after her for her achievements. She also earned a \$15,000 college scholarship, a Hollywood Studio tour, and a television appearance in an hour-long program that will air in late December 2002.

Christine's project investigated the use of buckeye blossoms as a means of controlling mosquitoes. She determined that the buckeye plant's natural poisons deterred mosquito development in Wonder Valley's vernal pools. This project was ideal for Christine because Wonder Valley has too many mosquitoes, and it also has livestock owners leery of spraying pesticides around water.

Christine's selection for his award shows her determination and ingenuity which is reflected through this project. She is to be admired and congratulated on her efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Christine Haas for her scientific achievement. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Christine Haas many years of continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELIAS M.  
ELIASOF

**HON. MARGE ROUKEMA**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 8, 2002*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate an outstanding member of our community and of northern New Jersey—Elias "Hy" Eliasof, who tomorrow evening will be honored for his contribution to one of New Jersey's most worthy non-for-profit organizations, the Spectrum for Living.

Mr. Speaker, it is impossible to list all of the contributions Hy has made to New Jersey as a public servant and philanthropist over the last three decades. Hy has served with distinction as the Mayor of Closter and as a Member of the Closter Council. He has chaired the Northern Valley Community Development Pro-

gram, and served on the Board of Directors of the Community Center for Mental Health, the Pascack Valley Hospital, and the Family Counseling Service of Closter. Hy was the Founder and President of the Northern Valley Mayors' Association, is a Past President of the North Valley Lodge B'nai B'rith, and was a member of the New Jersey Regional Board of Directors of the Anti-Defamation League. Hy is the first recipient of the B'nai B'rith Youth Services Appeal Humanitarian Award, and shared with his wife Marion the first North Valley Hadassah Citizens Award for dedicated and significant contributions in education and community services. The residents of Closter have been well-served by Hy, as have the countless members of our New Jersey community who have benefited from his philanthropy and civic involvement.

On November 8, 2002, Hy will be honored for his dedication, support, and contribution to Spectrum for Living. Spectrum is a not-for-profit organization that provides barrier-free residential facilities, nursing, psychological, recreational, vocational/educational, dietary, psychological, social and therapeutic services for persons with physical and developmental disabilities. Spectrum serves hundreds of people with disabilities, providing an environment where they are respected as individuals and given the freedom, responsibility, and opportunity to face and meet life's challenges. Spectrum provides the physical and emotional support that every individual needs to achieve his or her full potential.

Hy's well-deserved pride in this honor is shared with Marion, their daughter Lucy, their grandchildren Betsy, David, Benjamin, and in the memory of their daughter Diane.

Mr. Speaker, through his decades of public service and good works, Elias "Hy" Eliasof exemplifies the American values that have made our country great. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Hy on his achievements, and thanking and saluting him for his dedication and contribution to so many members of our New Jersey community.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPHINE WAGNER  
ELDRIDGE

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 8, 2002*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Josephine Wagner Eldridge, a beloved mother and grandmother who died on June 9, 2002.

Josephine Wagner was born in 1917 and was raised in Roanoke, Virginia, where she was an outstanding athlete and student. She graduated from Duke University School of Nursing in 1940 and worked as a nurse at Memorial Baptist Hospital in New Orleans, where she met and married Bill Eldridge, a pilot in the Army Air Corps. Following World War II they settled in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Josephine Wagner Eldridge and her husband Bill were long-time members of Contra Costa Country Club and founding members of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. Once their three sons were raised, Josephine returned to her passion of painting. Her painting career flourished and her works were displayed throughout the region with the Las Juntas Artists group and several other art organizations.

Josephine is survived by her sons Bill and his wife Judy, Steve and his wife Sue, Keith and his wife Jan, grandchildren Sheri, Kim, Tommy, Teo, Erin, Ryan and Alex, and her great-grandchildren Sydney and Jessica.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Josephine Wagner Eldridge, for the life she led, for the extraordinary family she raised and for her contributions to the community and the country she loved.

CONGRATULATING DR. PETE  
MEHAS

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 8, 2002*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Pete Mehas for receiving the Distinguished Alumnus Award at the Fresno State Alumni Awards Gala in Fresno, California on the evening of November 8, 2002. This award is the highest honor given to an alumnus of the university.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award is based on scholarship, leadership, and service to the University, the San Joaquin Valley, and the State of California. It has been established to provide special recognition to an individual who has distinguished himself through outstanding achievement during his post-collegiate career. Nominees must have received national or international recognition, as well as made a significant contribution through volunteer or donor work to the University, the Valley, and the State.

In 1962, Pete Mehas received his bachelor's degree from California State University, Fresno, his master's degree from UCLA in 1967, and his doctorate in education from the University of Southern California in 1979. He began his teaching profession at Roosevelt High School and later became a legislative advocate in Sacramento and Washington DC. In 1987, Dr. Mehas was appointed by Governor George Deukmejian as his Chief Advisor on matters relating to all public education in the state, as well as serving as the Director of the Governor's Office of Education Planning and Policy Committee. In September 1991, President Bush appointed Dr. Mehas to a 17-member advisory commission to implement his executive order on Latino education.

Dr. Pete Mehas was elected Fresno County Superintendent of School in June 1990, and has had unanimous endorsement from Fresno area Republican and Democratic legislators

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

during his three elections since. Dr. Mehas currently serves on the Fresno Compact Executive Board, Fresno State's President's Education Commission and Dean of Education Advisory Committee, and the UC Advisory Board.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Pete Mehas for earning the 2002 Distinguished Alumnus Award. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Dr. Pete Mehas more years of continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF  
ASSEMBLYMAN JOHN E. ROONEY

**HON. MARGE ROUKEMA**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 8, 2002*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate an outstanding member of our community and of northern New Jersey—Assemblyman John E. Rooney, who tomorrow evening will be honored for his contribution to one of New Jersey's most worthy not-for-profit organizations, the Spectrum for Living. I am privileged to have known John as a constituent, as a talented municipal leader and state legislator, and as a valued friend and counselor.

Mr. Speaker, it is impossible to list all of the contributions John has made to New Jersey as a public servant over the last two decades. John has served with distinction as the Mayor of Northvale, and for almost twenty years has served as a Member of New Jersey's State Assembly. He has chaired the Northern Valley Community Development Program, served on the Bergen County Utilities Authority, and held the office of President of the Northern Valley

Mayors' Association. At the same time, John has been an active member and dedicated supporter of American Legion Post 366, the Vietnam Veterans for America Post 1, and the Elks Closter Lodge 2304. The residents of Northvale—and indeed, all of the Thirty-Ninth Legislative District of New Jersey—have been well-served and well-represented by John, as have the many members of our New Jersey community who have benefited from John's active civic involvement.

On November 8, 2002, John will be honored for his dedication, support, and contribution to Spectrum for Living. Spectrum is a not-for-profit organization that provides barrier-free residential facilities, nursing, psychological, recreational, vocational/educational, dietary, psychological, social and therapeutic services for persons with physical and developmental disabilities. Spectrum serves hundreds of people with disabilities, providing an environment where they are respected as individuals and given the freedom, responsibility, and opportunity to face and meet life's challenges. Spectrum provides the physical and emotional support that every individual needs to achieve his or her full potential.

John's well-deserved pride in this honor is shared by his wife Martha, and their children Beth and Patrick.

Mr. Speaker, through his decades of public service and good works, Assemblyman John Rooney exemplifies the American values that have made our country great. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating John on his achievements, and thanking and saluting him for his dedication and contribution to so many members of our New Jersey community.

HONORING THE KOEHLER FAMILY

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 8, 2002*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Koehler family for their loyalty and exemplary dedication to the United States Armed Forces over the past 50 years. The Koehler family has exemplified heroism throughout the years through their service during World War I, World War II, and the Korean War.

Mr. David Koehler was the father of fourteen children, eleven of them sons; eight of which served in the United States Armed Forces. Mr. Koehler began his career with the United States Army and served in World War I. The Koehler brothers began enlisting in the Armed Forces in 1941. Chris, Jacob, Adam, John, and brother-in-law Rodger Schuester, served in the United States Navy during the World War II. William served in the United States National Guard and Army during World War II. During the Korean War, Henry and Edward joined the United States Air Force, and Sam followed in his father's footsteps by enlisting in the United States Army.

The Koehler family's time in the service demonstrates their commitment to our country. The contributions the Koehler family made during our times of war and peace have gone above and beyond the normal call of duty.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Koehler family for their patriotism and heroic efforts to keep our nation great and free. I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing deep gratitude to the Koehler family.